(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of demanding gas at abysmally low price by RNRL *vis-a-vis* Government approved or international price;

(c) whether RNRL is also demanding reservation of gas for future plants for which no schedule is available; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to fix the price of gas based on international price ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) The Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for the block KG-DWN 98/3 has been signed between Government of India Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and NIKO Resources Ltd. RNRL is not a party to the PSC. There is an ongoing litigation between RIL & RNRL in the Bombay High Court on supply of gas from this KG-DWN-98/3 block in terms of MOU/ demerger scheme approved by the court between the two companies. The matter is presently *sub-judice.*

Shortage of petro-products in Tamil Nadu

1666. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is an artificial shortage of petrol products in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the actions being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government is also aware that ordinary petrol is being sold with higher prices against fixed one in the name of premium quality;

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(e) whether there is any monitoring mechanism to check the quality of petrol in retail outlet especially in remote areas and on highways; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of petrol and diesel in the country. Government had received some complaints/reports about the non-availability of petrol and diesel in some States in the period from July to October, 2008. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) reported that sporadic incidence of non-availability was due to a surge in demand for diesel for power generation in these States. However, the demand of all sectors including Agriculture and transport sector is fully met.

OMCs have been directed to take urgent steps to ensure adequate supply and availability of Diesel and Petrol at the Retail Outlets (ROs) across the country. OMCs have also been directed to take all necessary steps to build sufficient stocks of petroleum products at different locations in the country to take care of any unforeseen contingency including any temporary disruption in the movement of petroleum products.

OMCs have reported that they ensure the availability of petrol and diesel in the country at all times and are supplying petrol and diesel to the ROs as per indents. OMCs have also reported that they have not restricted/curtailed supply of petrol and diesel to their ROs any where in the country.

(c) and (d) OMCs have reported that there is no case of any ROs selling ordinary petrol or diesel at higher price in the name of premium quality. For the benefit of the customer it is ensured that:

(i) Separate dispensing units are provided for (dispensing branded petrol and branded diesel at ROs, so that customers can purchase fuel as per their choice. In case multi dispensing units, nozzles of branded petrol and branded diesel are identified with separate colour.

(ii) Price list of branded and non-branded fuel is displayed prominently at the ROs.

(iii) Price of the product is displayed in electronic dispensing units.

(e) and (f) OMCs undertake regular and surprise inspections of Retail Outlets and also take action under Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) and Dealership Agreements against those indulging in adulteration and malpractices. MDG provide for termination of dealership in the first instance itself for serious malpractices like adulteration, tampering of seals, and unauthorized fittings/gears in dispensing units.

In order to check adulteration, the Government has taken a number of additional initiatives *viz.*, Automation of Retail Outlets, Third party certification of Retail Outlets, Monitoring of movement of tank trucks through Global Positioning System (GPS), Jan Kerosene Pariyojna (JKP), Use of Marker in Kerosene, Revision of MDG etc.

Demand of subsidy of fuel purchase by BEST

†1667. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a proposal from Brihan Mumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST) demanding subsidy on purchase of fuel;

(b) if so, whether Government's decision on this demand is positive; and

(c) the amount Government receives as tax from BEST every year and the amount given to BEST as assistance every year in lieu of this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No proposal has been received from Brihan Mumbai Electric Supply Transport Undertaking (BEST) demanding subsidy on purchase of fuel.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Ministry of Finance has informed that it does not keep a record of taxes of specific Enterprises.

Adulteration in petro-products

†1668. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints of adulteration on high scale and under measurement at petrol-pumps in the country have been received and reported in print media;